(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the measures intended by India to get the heinous crime stopped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Government have seen reports of abuse and ill-treatment of Iraqi prisoners in Abu Ghraib prison and elsewhere in Iraq at the hands of elements in the Coalition Forces.

(b) Government consider the ill-treatment and abuse of Iraqi prisoners abhorrent. Government have noted the regret expressed at highest level in the countries concerned at the heinous acts and the intentions of their Governments to take corrective and punitive steps through their military, administrative and legal system. Government hope that these steps will prevent recurrence of such practices.

Amendments in the Emigration Act, 1983

*260. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring any amendments in the Emigration Act of 1983 to improve the facilities for job-seekers in the Gulf countries;

(b) whether Government propose to open new protector of emigrant offices in Kerala;

(c) Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether any practical difficulty exists to open new certificate attesting centres in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government are considering to explore the possibilities to overcome such difficulties; if any?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) In view of ban on creation of new posts, the Central Government have authorised thirteen State Governments including the Government of Kerala to authenticate the educational qualifications after proper verification.